

the Christian population in Turkey." A "Mediæval Spanish Writer," by Mrs. Ward, is an extremely entertaining account, with illustrative extracts, of a Chauceresque writer, Juan Ruiz, Archpriest (or rural dean) of Hita, who flourished early in the fourteenth century.

In the *Contemporary Review*, Mr. Gladstone pleads the cause of Greece to the consideration of the powers, now that they have undertaken the solution of the Oriental difficulty. "The Hellenic Factor in the Eastern Problem" is so moderate in tone as to elicit approbation from the *Saturday Review*, and from journals which have stigmatized the ex-Premier as a Russophilist. The paper opens with an account of a meeting at Athens, by which, "probably for the first time during two thousand years, the silence of the Pnyx was broken a few weeks ago." Judging from the speeches of Professors Kokkinos and Papparrhigopoulos (how odd these Romaic proper names look in Roman type!), the Greeks would appear to be dissatisfied that the Powers have not rewarded their pacific policy by some effort to redress the wrongs which their subject brethren of Thessaly and Epirus suffer at the hands of the Porte. Mr. Gladstone makes an earnest and forcible appeal on their behalf, in which he gives a complete account of the people, and a brief sketch of the history of Greece from the destruction of the Byzantine Empire in 1453. Mr. Francis Peek's paper on "Intemperance: its Prevalence, Effects, and Remedy," deals with an important and serious social problem in a temperate manner. A large portion of it is necessarily taken up with facts, figures, and inferences regarding the vice of drunkenness in England, and the results are appalling enough. Coming to the question "whether anything can be done to remedy this evil by parliamentary action, and, if so, whether the present is a case in which Government ought to interfere," the writer dismisses summarily some of the more superficial arguments of the *laissez faire* party. He believes that drunkenness bears a direct proportion to the number of drinking-shops; yet he does not favour Prohibition or even the Permissive Bill, on the ground that even if these were justifiable they would inevitably fail

in practice. He favours the Gothenburg plan, but suggests a number of reforms tending to diminish the traffic and set rigid limits to its exercise.

Mr. Appleton concludes his critical examination of Mr. Matthew Arnold's prose writings, in "A Plea for Metaphysic." The writer contends that whilst Mr. Arnold took the true metaphysical view, driven to it by the exigencies of his polemic against the Liberal Philistine in "Culture and Anarchy," and against the Religious Philistine in "St. Paul and Protestantism," he has fallen off from that point of view, and become unsatisfactory and weak in "Literature and Dogma," and "God and the Bible." In short, that although Mr. Arnold fancied that he has emerged from the region of metaphysic, he has not really done so, but only got "out of the region of good metaphysic, into the region of bad metaphysic, of idols and illusions, such the Philistine knows and rejoices in"—in fact, that "he has descended to the Philistine's level." Mr. Newton's paper on "Greek Inscriptions," will be read with interest by students of epigraphy, inasmuch as it unfolds the chief results of modern research up to the present time. Mr. Fitch asserts, in "Universities and the Training of Teachers," that no means of instructing teachers of the higher schools have yet been adopted, and urges Oxford and Cambridge to take the matter in hand. The third part of Dr. Elam's "Automatism and Evolution," is as vigorous and telling as its predecessors. In the present instalment he assails the doctrine of the infinite variability of species, and takes much the same ground as Mr. St. George Mivart, although some of his positions have a novel appearance. Haeckel, Spencer, Huxley, and Darwin, all come in for some trenchant criticism, but the writer is especially hard upon the inconsistencies of Professor Huxley. The Rev. Bosworth Smith, the author of "Mohammed and Mohammedanism," puts in a plea in favour of Islam, which is exceedingly interesting and opportune at this time, when less than justice is being done to the teachings of the Arabian prophet, and to their influence on religion and civilization.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

FOR the present festive season of the year, Mrs. Morrison has very appropriately been providing her patrons with a feast of good things. Mr. Gilbert's fairy piece, "The Palace of Truth," as a Christmas spectacle; the Fifth Avenue Company from New York; Janauschek;

and Neilson, make a goodly list for one month's entertainment. To begin with the last named, the production of Shakspere's "Twelfth Night," with Miss Neilson as *Viola*, is the most noteworthy event we have to chronicle. This fine comedy is but rarely produced on the